

*D. Hammer*  
*#11/a*  
*8.16.02*  
**PATENT**



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN APPLICATION OF: Schaevitz, *et al.*

SERIAL No.: 09/691,957

FILED: October 18, 2000

FOR: **EFFICIENT MICROFLUIDIC SEALING**

EXAMINER: Quan

ART UNIT: 1743

CONFIRMATION NO: 5382

**Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated January 30, 2002 in the above-identified application, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Specification:

On page 2, please delete the heading on line 5.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph starting on line 5 with the following:

*Q1*  
This application claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. provisional application 60/161,203 filed October 22, 2000, which disclosure is hereby incorporated by reference.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph starting on line 15 with the following:

*Q2*  
Microfluidic devices offer great promise for the accurate manipulation of very small volumes, the rapid execution of a wide variety of operations, the minimal use of reagents, as well as many other benefits. As with all situations, the benefits come with challenges. For many purposes, one wishes to have a number of independent electrokinetic units in a single substrate. Since each unit will frequently comprise a plurality of reservoirs and channels, it is important that the individual units do not communicate except as required by

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